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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
HIROYUKI BANDO : EXAMINER: CHEVALIER, R.
SERIAL NO: 09/661,994 :
FILED: SEPTEMBER 14, 2000 : GROUP ART UNIT: 2616
FOR: INFORMATION PROCESSING :
APPARATUS AND METHOD, AND
PROGRAM STORAGE MEDIUM

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

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AUG 17 2004

Technology Center 2600

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement stated in the Official Action dated July 15, 2004, Applicants in the above-identified patent application provisionally elect Group I, Claims 1-5, 8 and 11-16, drawn to an information processing method including the features of "associating said measured position information with said video information in accordance with degrees of difference between said first time information and said second time information."

The Restriction Requirement asserts that the application contains claims to distinct inventions. However, MPEP §803 states the following:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

The claims of the present invention would appear to be of an overlapping search area. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a *serious* burden on the Examiner.

However, if the present Restriction Requirement is not withdrawn, examination on the merits of the Claims of Group I is believed to be in order, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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